

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE AND CREATE A DESIGN TEAM FOR A PILOT PRE-ARREST DIVERSION INITIATIVE IN FULTON COUNTY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, in April 2015, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners adopted six strategic priority areas, one of which was "All People are Safe"; and

WHEREAS, a strategy outlined within the "All People are Safe" priority area is to "create more effective approaches to addressing the increasing populations of mentally ill, drug/alcohol-dependent, and homeless individuals that are overwhelming the public safety system"; and

WHEREAS, the Board seeks, as a strategic measure, to address the number of individuals that suffer from mental and substance abuse illness who are arrested and incarcerated; and

WHEREAS, the most effective practices across the nation illustrate that Pre-Arrest Diversion Initiatives have a significant impact on (1) quality of life improvement in communities, (2) reducing the number of inmates in jail facilities, and (3) the successful redirection of the mentally ill and those suffering from addiction to receipt of services that result in reduced contact with the Criminal Justice System; and

WHEREAS, Fulton County has sent two delegations of elected officials and Criminal Justice System stakeholders to Seattle to observe the Country's premier Pre-Arrest Diversion Initiative known as Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion ("LEAD") to understand how and why LEAD works; and

WHEREAS, Pre-Arrest Diversion Initiatives are a priority for President Barack Obama's administration; and

WHEREAS, Atlanta/Fulton County was one of 20 jurisdictions invited to the White House for a convening in July 2015 on Pre-Arrest Diversion Initiatives and urged by the

1 Administration to implement such a program; and

2 **WHEREAS**, The City of Atlanta/Fulton County is one of five (5) jurisdictions named
3 as finalists for a Planning Grant (via the Racial Justice Action Center) specifically for the
4 design process of a Pre-Arrest Diversion Initiative.

5 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners does
6 hereby approve the creation of a Pre-Arrest Diversion Initiative Design Team to engage in
7 a thorough planning process toward the implementation of a pilot program of the Pre-Arrest
8 Diversion Initiative.

9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Design Team shall engage in a directed
10 envisioning and planning process to decide program details, including but not limited to:

- 11 • Guiding vision and principles for the initiative;
- 12 • Location of the pilot program and targeted population;
- 13 • Program eligibility, including charges and backgrounds;
- 14 • Case management requirements for the social service component;
- 15 • Collaboration and communication between entities;
- 16 • Fundraising and sustainability; and
- 17 • Thorough and objective evaluation of the program.

18
19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Design Team shall include key stakeholders
20 from the City of Atlanta, Fulton County, human services providers, and community
21 members. Participants from Fulton County (or their designees) shall include:

- 22 • (1) Representative from the Fulton County Board of Commissioners,
23 appointed by the full Board;
- 24 • (1) Representative of the Fulton County Department of Housing and
25 Community Development
- 26 • Fulton County District Attorney;
- 27 • Fulton County Solicitor General;
- 28 • Chief Public Defender for Fulton County;
- 29 • Fulton County Manager;

1 • (1) Representative from each of the following Fulton County Courts:
2 Superior, State and Magistrate;

3
4 • (1) Representative from the Fulton County Department of Health.
5

6 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County
7 reserves the right to adjust the number County representatives on the design team; and

8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Resolution authorizes this Design Team to
9 operate beginning January 1, 2016 and shall sunset on December 31, 2016.

10 **SO PASSED AND ADOPTED**, this 16th day of December, 2015.

11
12
13 **SPONSORED BY:**

14
15
16 By: JH.E.
17 John H. Eaves, Chairman
18 District 7 At Large

19
20 Marvin S. Arrington, Jr.
21 Marvin S. Arrington, Jr., Commissioner
22 District 5

23
24 Joan P. Garner
25 Joan P. Garner, Commissioner
26 District 4

27
28 Bob Ellis
29 Bob Ellis, Commissioner
30 District 2

31 **ATTEST:**

32
33 Mark Massey
34 Mark Massey, Clerk of the Commission
35
36
37



38 **APPROVED AS TO FORM:**
Jerolyn Webb Ferrari
Jerolyn Webb Ferrari, Interim County Attorney